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MYSTERY DEFENDANT CONVICTED AFTER ONE HOUR TRIAL

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the conviction yesterday of a man known only as "John Doe" following a bench trial before United States District Judge KEVIN THOMAS DUFFY. The trial, including closing argument, lasted less than one hour. The defendant was charged in a two-count Indictment with making false statements on passport applications.

According to testimony at trial, the defendant, who claimed to be a man born in North Carolina, yet he could not provide any information about his home state. The testimony at trial also showed that "DOE" told an official at the New York Passport Office that he had never been out of the country, despite speaking with a thick foreign accent. Later, during an interview with Agents from the Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, the defendant stated that he had "several" brothers and sisters, but could not say exactly how many, nor

name any of them. The person whom the defendant had pretended to be was found by authorities living in Philadelphia and also appeared as a witness.

"JOHN DOE" is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge DUFFY on February 24, 2004. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorneys JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN and JENNIFER RODGERS are in charge of the prosecution.